

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, June 15, 2015 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon and Paul Wilkinson, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion.

### **ELECTION**

Debbie Richardson, the County Clerk requested the approval of the polling places for the upcoming municipal elections. Mark Bacon moved to approve the voting sites of the community buildings in Rushville, Carthage and Glenwood for the fall election. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **EMA**

EMA director Chuck Kemker requested funding of a reimbursable MPG Grant of \$18,965 for fourteen EF Johnson radios. Paul moved to approve. Mark seconded the motion. Motion carried. Kemker also noted that he has received a grant from Rush/Shelby Energy in the amount of \$9,050 for emergency radios.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Cindy Humphrey, Treasurer submitted the monthly report. It was reported that tax collections increased \$395,438.43 over the same collection cycle last year. For those that had delinquent taxes the penalty is 5% for the first 30 days and 10% after the 30 day grace period. Courtesy letters have been sent to those who are eligible for tax sale. That list is currently at 76 taxpayers. There are 60 taxpayers on the demand list for delinquent personal property which will be submitted to a collection agency.

Humphrey was grant permission to proceed with an auction company for an internet-auction of 22 mobile homes that have not paid delinquent taxes. The sale will take place on October 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Paul Wilkinson approved the mobile home auction. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mary Ann Beard, Auditor joined the Treasurer in requesting a contract with SRI, Incorporated to conduct the tax sale process for the county. There is no cost to the county for this service. Tax sale fees are billed to the delinquent property taxpayer in accordance with Indiana statute. Mark Bacon moved to sign the contract and addendum with SRI. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **SOLID WASTE**

Carole Yeend reported that the Tox-Away Day scheduled for Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday.

## **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Chamber Director Sandy Fussner reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade will organize at the City parking lot at 2<sup>nd</sup> & Perkins and will travel north on Main St. to the fairgrounds.

## **RALEIGH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

A letter was received from Verlin Custer stating that Raleigh Fire Department is requesting the same budgeted amount as last year for the Emergency Medical Service provided by the department.

## **WIND FARMS**

Residents from the northeast section of the county were once again present to share their views of the proposed wind farm projects. Those speaking in favor of the project included Craig Custer, Phillip Gordon, Mary Jo Lovett, Verlin Custer, Tom Ripberger, James Newkirk and Steve Schwering. Favorable comments included a tremendous opportunity to benefit all taxpayers, another crop for the farmers, needed electricity to replace coal, relief from taxes and land owners are entitled to use their land.

Tierney Hall, Tom Monka, Tom Gates, Hank Campbell and David Hiner spoke out against the wind project. The issues presented at this meeting included concerns about setbacks, the noise factor, shadow flicker, the number of lawsuits, the number of people abandoning property and the safety zone in safety manuals.

Commissioner Levi expressed that we must work together to hit a compromise. We must be good neighbors although we are presenting two views. Levi stated that he was elected to insure economic development and take care of the people. Commissioner Wilkinson stated that the board will be weighing all issues. Commissioner Bacon commented that the Commissioners are your representatives and they must see all sides.

County Councilman Warren Norris stated that he has visited Benton County to see the wind farms and that he has also seen them all the way to Colorado but Rush County is more populated than some areas.

## **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported 34 inmates in the jail; 26 are male, 8 female and 1 DOC prisoner. Cowan stated that the new Dodge Chargers have experienced 11 weeks of downtime due to mechanical issues. Cowan shared that the fire frequency has been tested; revealing that there are still equipment issues with Anderson, Posey, and Carthage. Code Red has been a huge problem for the department and Cowan is considering another vendor.

## **HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton submitted his department's monthly report and noted that the Highway fund has almost reached one million dollars.

## **AFLAC**

Bruce Levi signed the contract for AFLAC premiums to be pre-taxed as approved at the last meeting.

## **AUDITOR**

- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) was granted permission to receive a second set of keys for the Courthouse Annex.
- APEX was granted their request for data sharing of the GIS information.
- A bond was signed for Jeanie Bowles on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Paul Wilkinson.
- An EMS run report was received from Carthage.
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Mark Bacon moved to approve claims. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Payroll claims were approved on a motion made by Paul Wilkinson. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **FOR THE RECORD**

Commissioner Bruce Levi stated that he sees the setbacks as the biggest problem. Currently they stand at 1,400 feet from non-participating homes. Levi thinks the setback should be more.

Commissioner Paul Wilkinson would also like to go on record that he would like to see a larger setback.

Mark Bacon moved to adjourn. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion.

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Bruce Levi, Chairman

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Mark Bacon

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Paul Wilkinson

ATTEST:

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Mary Ann Beard, Auditor